

Track Prowess At Baylor Can't Replace Football Title

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF
Associated Press Sports Writer

Baylor won the Southwest Conference track and field championship and there were thousands to cheer. But ask a Baylor fan which he'd rather do—win the track championship every year or the football title just once. His stony stare will make you feel stupid even asking.

Baylor has made this football thing an obsession. Unless the Bears can win a Southwest Conference championship soon there could be an epidemic of nervous prostrations.

The last time Baylor won the title was 1924. That is 37 years ago. Since the Golden Bears have finished second six times and tied or second three times. They have come as close as possible not to either tie for the title or win it outright. For instance, in 1951 they finished second by one-half game.

It is even more frustrating than Sam Snead's failure to win the National Open because Sam never has had the glory and Baylor has. When you win something it's tougher on you not to ever win again than it is to have never won at all.

Why hasn't Baylor been able to win the title in 37 years?

Frank Bridges, the little man who coached the Bears to their last championship, doesn't want to hurt anybody's feelings and hopes Baylor folks take it only as constructive criticism since he has nothing to gain by even expressing an opinion.

But Bridges says the reason there hasn't been a winner at Baylor is because the coaches haven't been tough enough.

"Football is a rough, tough game where a fellow has to make his boys realize that the team that hits hardest is the one that's going

to win. There have been none of the so-called tough guys coaching at Baylor. Perhaps the Baylor administration wants it that way. But it won't win a championship."

Bridges hastens to explain that he isn't advocating dirty football but football as it should be played—hard, tough but clean. "I had 60-minute men when I coached at Baylor," he says. "They were rough and tough and they played the game the way it is intended."

Bridges came to Baylor as coach in 1920. He openly boasted that he would give the Bears a championship in three years. He did just what he said—Baylor won the title in 1922 with a perfect conference record.

In 1924 Bridges sent his Bears to the championship despite a tie with Southern Methodist. It so happened that SMU also was undefeated by won only two games while tying four.

SPORTS SECTION



IN REVERSE

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Charles N. Nohava, 13, took out a war surplus parachute he had bought to let it fill up in the breeze. A gust of 30 to 35 miles per hour caught it and lifted him 20 feet to the roof of his house, then dragged him into electric power lines where he hung suspended before dropping to the ground. He was treated for electric shock in the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth.

THE BATTALION

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College Station, Texas

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Roger Ward Wins Indy 500, Outlasts Younger Favorites

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Veteran Roger Ward displayed superb control Wednesday and outlasted a pair of younger favorites for his second victory in the Indianapolis 500-mile auto race. And he did it in record time.

Right behind Ward was his teammate, Len Sutton of Portland, Ore., driving the second of two cars entered by Bob Wilke of Milwaukee.

Ward completed the torturous 200-lap grind at an average speed of 140.292 miles per hour. The old record was 139.130, set last year by A. J. Foyt Jr. of Houston, Tex., his first time out.

Eddie Sachs, Coopersburg, Pa., runner-up to Foyt last year, finished third, after working his way up from a starting position of 26th.

The curly-haired, mild-mannered Ward, 41, made his 12th successive Speedway start a methodical conquest of time and the early pace setters, Parnelli Jones of Torrance, Calif., and Foyt.

Jones, who started in the pole position after a record qualifying run of better than 150 m.p.h., lead nearly all the time until brake trouble forced him out temporarily just past the 300-mile mark. Foyt was knocked out when his car lost a wheel in the backstretch shortly before Jones ran into his trouble.

The yellow caution light flashed five times, but a series of spectacular spins produced only one multiple wreck—a four-car tangle on the 20th lap. The pileup sent Jack Turner of Seattle to the hos-

pital with a broken pelvis and left big toe. Turner was the only driver hurt.

Turner escaped with only bruises last year when his car flipped end over end in a six-car tangle.

Ward now owns an amazing record of two victories, a second and a third in his last four Speedway starts—his first victory coming in 1959. He thrilled the mammoth Memorial Day crowd of some 250,000 with an 11½-second finish ahead of Sutton.

He will collect some \$120,000 from an approximate pot of \$400,000 to be sliced at a victory dinner Thursday night.

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